

Kindergarten

École Keating Elementary



The three key areas in Kindergarten are:

Play-Based Learning
Personal Independence
General Routines

Play-Based Learning

A lot of what you see in Kindergarten looks like play – and it is! Children learn through play. Through their play, they develop sensory motor control, eye-hand coordination and problem-solving skills. Physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development are all enhanced through play.

Research has shown that play:

- enhances a child's language development,
- encourages thinking, creativity and problem-solving,
- provides opportunities for children to represent their thinking,
- acts as a basis for learning in literacy, numeracy and other curricular areas,
- develops higher motivation to learn, and higher self-esteem,
- nourishes natural curiosity and supports overall healthy development.



Personal Independence

School success begins at home! Families are a child's first and most important teacher. You have already helped your child learn by:

- supporting their efforts,
- providing opportunities to interact socially with other children and adults,
- providing experiences for them to talk with you about their experiences, such as visits beyond the home and into the community,
- reading to them daily and talking about signs, stories, poems and rhymes,
- providing opportunities for drawing, painting, cutting, gluing,
- having them use numbers, print and words in the world around them,
- encouraging them to accept responsibility and take care of belongings.

Developing your child's personal independence is **critical** to his or her success in Kindergarten. *Independence Day*, an article which appeared in the Parents Canada magazine (August/September 2011) provides parents with five key skills for kindies. <http://www.parentscanada.com/school/5-must-have-skills-for-kindergarten-success> These skills are highly endorsed by K teachers here at Keating. Start your child off on the right foot, by working on these self-help skills over the summer. You may also want to check out the series of articles entitled Supporting Early Learners (Issues 1-10) on our school website under parents/newsletters. These issues provide excellent information on how to help your child at home.



General Routines

Gradual Entry

To ensure a successful and comfortable beginning to school, there is an introductory period of shortened sessions with children attending in small groups. This practice is supported by the Ministry of Education and the Saanich School District.

The shorter sessions provide:

An opportunity for children to come in a smaller group to be introduced to their new environment in a more personal and relaxed way; and time during the first week for parents/guardians to share information with the teachers and have questions answered.

Our school secretary will be mailing you your child's gradual entry plan at the end of June/beginning of July.

Outside Play Time

Children begin by playing in a central smaller location and transition from the small K play area to the larger school playground in October. Before transitioning to the general play area, Kindies take part in a playground safety presentation with lunch hour supervisors and administration. Students are given lots of opportunities to visit the common play areas throughout the day, during the month of September and October, as classroom teachers help students familiarise themselves with the location of the entrances/exits and the bathrooms. Grade 5 Ambassadors will be available to offer games, such as parachutes or a bubble station, as well as equipment, such as balls and skipping ropes.



Inside Routines - A Day in the Life of a Keating Kindie!

Lunch and Snacks – Students have a regular a.m. snack and p.m. snack. If extra time is required for eating lunch, students have an opportunity to do so, while the others transition to centres or quiet time. Busy kids need good healthy food to give them energy for the day. Some suggestions for the kindie lunch kit are:

- small, reusable, easy to open containers (parents can put in just the right amount of snacks and food, and leftovers are not spilled all over the lunch kit);
- nut free lunches (we are an “allergy aware” school);
- healthy food choices (we encourage students to leave candies at home)
- all recycling goes back in your child's lunch kit and can be recycled at home (supporting your child in learning how to use your home recycling program helps him/her identify what to put back in kit, what needs to be composted and what can go in the garbage)

YES - WE COMPOST!



Bathroom Breaks – Regular bathroom breaks are scheduled throughout the day. The classroom teacher will help students familiarize themselves with all of the washrooms in the school and will teach children proper hand washing. Please be sure that you spend time explaining to your child how to correctly use a public washroom (using a stall and locking the door for privacy, urinals for boys, checking for toilet paper, etc.)

Library – Students visit the library once a week and sometimes more for special projects. Your child's teacher will communicate your child's scheduled library day to you, so that you can help your child establish a routine for returning the book(s) on time.

Technology – Students have access to both chromebooks and iPads. They develop skills in drawing/painting games and navigating on the different devices. They also do math games to practice number recognition, counting, sequencing, etc. and alphabet games to practice letter and sound recognition.

Physical Education/KidFit – All students participate regularly in physical activity (energy breaks in class, outside play time, scheduled gym time and KidFit exercise time with other students in the gym). Please ensure that your child is always dressed for active play, as many classes take full advantage of all of the great physical activities offered here at Keating.

Math and Literacy Centres – For Math, students participate in a variety of individual activities or games to practice number recognition, sequencing, patterning, counting, creating sets and matching. For literacy, students develop letter recognition, sound recognition, correct letter formation, matching upper to lower case letters, matching pictures to simple words, printing and reading names of classmates.

Play-Based Centres - House, sand table, blocks, play dough, painting, dress-up, arts and crafts and more nurture the innate curiosity of all Kindergarten students.

Buddy time – Kindergarten classes often pair up with an older class to share special crafts, activities or songs. Ask your child about his or her buddy and you will find out about some incredible cooperative skills that are being learned.

Story time – Students in both French Immersion and English enjoy daily story time in French and English. Children are always eager to share the fun stories at home, so don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher about the titles, so that you can sign out these books from either the school or public library. Keating School also offers a Family Read-In time. Be sure to check the school newsletter for upcoming dates, so that you can come in and read with your child.



Music and Art – Student art work is displayed regularly throughout Keating, and as you pass through the hallways, you will hear students practising songs for assemblies, buddy time or pleasure. Be sure to take a few moments each week to check out the school bulletin boards for the recent art displays. We also have a school choir that performs at school assemblies.



Quiet Time – Kindergarten classes enjoy quiet time every afternoon. Your child's teacher will let you know if there is anything special that you can send for this time.

Rest - The full-day program is very tiring for many children in the fall. Adequate sleep and rest assist children in experiencing success in every part of their school day. Recommended sleep for 4 and 5 year olds is approx. 10 to 12 hours per night. As there is no nap time in our classrooms, a full night's sleep is essential.

French as a Second Language Class – In Saanich School District, students start learning French in Kindergarten, and what fun they have singing songs, dancing and speaking in French! If your child is in English, the French as a Second Language Teacher will teach your child four times per week for 25 minutes, while the classroom teacher takes his or her preparation block. In French Immersion, your child's teacher collaborates with the French Immersion Prep Relief teacher to plan the curricular area that will be taught by the Prep Relief teacher for the four 25 minute sessions a week that your child's teacher will be taking his or her preparation block.

French Immersion Assemblies – In French Immersion, students assemble once a month to celebrate the French Language. Students present songs, dances poems, etc.

General Assemblies – All students take part in our monthly school assemblies. Sometimes there are exciting theatre productions, school bands, special guests or Ceremonies, such as Remembrance Day and at other times, we assemble to simply practise our audience skills, such as VEEB (Voices Quiet, Eyes Watching, Ears Listening and Body Still).

Important Information to Note



Drop-off and pick up:

The drop-off zones at the front of the school and behind the gym are for **drop-off only**. In the K parking lot, when you feel your child is ready, please you drop off your son/daughter, and we will have a K morning walker walk your child down to the K entry doors (September & October). An adult supervisor will be present in the drop off area from 8:23-8:38. If you wish to walk with your child, park in one of the school visitor spots (2 locations), in the lower lot off of East Saanich Rd. or on one of the side streets and walk up to the school with your child. The lots are **VERY** busy at both drop-off and pick-up. Please plan ahead and discuss with your child a drop-off and pick-up that is safe and works for both of you. We do have supervision from 8:23-8:38 and also from 2:48-3:03.



School Bells: If you arrive late, please have your child check in at the office on the way to class.

Warning Bell:	8:37
Instruction:	8:40 – 11:14
Lunch Recess:	11:14 – 11:49
Lunch Eating Period:	11:49 – 12:14
Instruction:	12:14 – 1:40
Recess:	1:40 – 1:55
Instruction:	1:55 – 2:48



If your child will be away or is home sick, please let the office know, so that we can account for your child's absence. Please email: keatingabsence@sd63.bc.ca or call (250)-652-9261.

School Supplies: A school supply list will be emailed to families in late June.

Volunteering in your child's class: Teachers at Keating welcome volunteers in their classroom and throughout the year will send home requests for volunteers to assist with special projects and occasions. It is important to remember that volunteers must sign in at the office and it is imperative to respect the confidentiality of all students in the class, as well as the teacher.

N.B. Criminal Record Checks are required if you will be driving students or if your volunteer role places you in a situation where you have the potential to be alone with students. Please see our school secretary for a letter that you can take to your local police detachment, in order to acquire a free CRC.

Clothing and items from home: Please send a change of clothes for your child. Kindies tend to have lots of muddy fun outside and occasionally, some have bathroom accidents. Label everything! You will want to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Rubber boots, rain gear and mud pants are great for the wet months and sunscreen, hats and sun glasses are good for those fun sunny days.

"Stay- at-school" shoes for gym time/inside play time should fit well, be suitable for active use, have good support and good tread. Children should be able to change into these shoes quickly and unassisted. Unsuitable shoes include flip-flops, crocs, slippers and thin soled shoes. We encourage students to save their fancy shoes for special occasions with family, in order to prevent slips and falls outside or while in the gym doing physical activity. If your child is able to tie his or her own shoes, then laces are great, otherwise, please consider velcro, in order to foster independence.

BackPacks and Lunch Kits: All children need a regular sized back pack which can hold a lunch kit and a library book. Lunch kits should be standard size and can easily be opened and closed by your child without adult assistance. Water bottles are required, however, large sized metal bottles are often awkward for the children and really hurt when they drop on a foot. A small sized bottle is fine as we can refill them throughout the day in the classroom.

